

Quick Facts about Young Voters in Indiana: The Presidential Election Year 2008

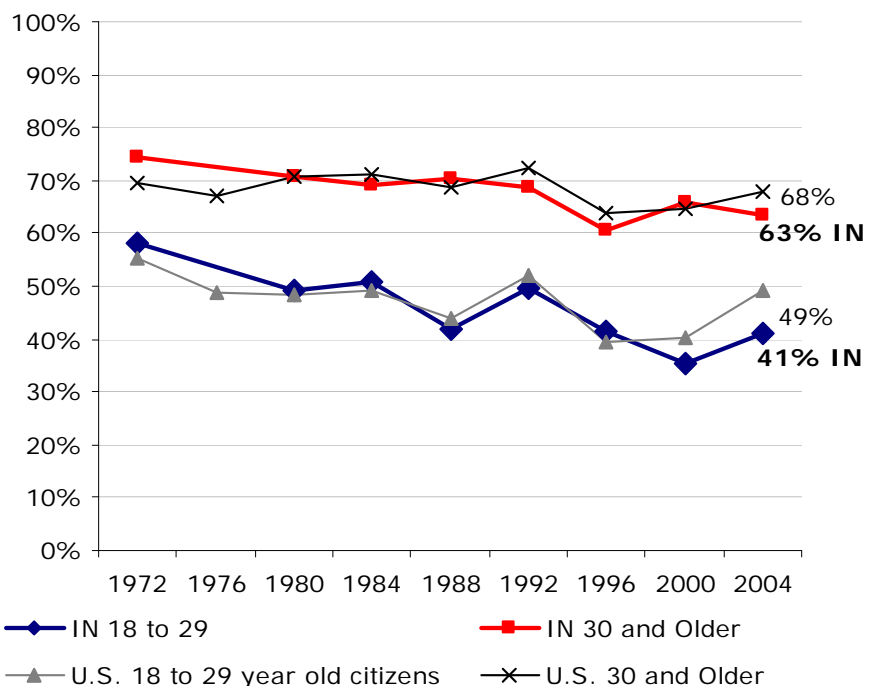
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October 2008

This year's general election follows a primary season in which more than 6.5 million young people under the age of 30 participated.

In 2004, turnout among 18-to-29 year-olds in Indiana ranked 47th among all states and the District of Columbia in 2004, and was up six percentage points over 2000. Nationally, youth voter turnout for the primary election rose by eight percentage points, from nine percent in 2000 to 17 percent in 2008. However, whether the voter mobilization momentum of 2008 continues into the general election in Indiana remains to be seen.

This fact sheet reports the characteristics of young voters for the state of Indiana, including estimates of the number of young voters and voter turnout rates in 2004 and 2000 for various sub-groups of young people.

Figure 1: Indiana Voter Turnout in Presidential Years Among Citizens, by Age



Source: Author's tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November (Voting) Supplements, 1972-2004. No 1976 data for IN.

**Table 1: Summary of Young Voters in the Indiana Primary, 2008 and 2000²
Youth Turnout, Vote Count, and Vote Share**

	Turnout Rate	Number of youth who voted	Youth as Share of All Voters
2008	20 percent	213,203	17 percent
2000	***	***	***

Youth Vote Choice by Party

Democratic Choice	
Clinton	38 percent
Obama	62 percent

Estimates of Eligible Young Voters, 2008

In 2008, a Presidential election year, there are an estimated 904 thousand young people in Indiana who are eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Table 2 shows voting statistics for the years 2004 and 2000.³ Indiana's youth voter turnout rate was near the bottom of all states and the District of Columbia in 2004 and 2000.⁴

Table 2 – Indiana Voter Turnout Statistics, 2008, 2004, and 2000

	Young People 18 to 29	Adults 30 and Older
2008		
Number of Citizens Eligible to Vote in 2008	904 thousand	3.6 million
2004		
Number of Votes Cast	391 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	41 percent	63 percent
Share of all Voters	15 percent	85 percent
2000		
Number of Votes Cast	315 thousand	2.2 million
Voter Turnout Rate	35 percent	66 percent
Share of all Voters	12 percent	88 percent

Source: Authors' Tabulations, Current Population Survey, March Supplement 2008 and November Supplement 2004 and 2000.

Voter Turnout Rates in 2004 and 2000 Among Eligible Young Citizens

Table 3 displays voter turnout rates for various groups of young people in 2004 and 2000 in Indiana. 2004 was a year of high voter turnout for all youth groups in Indiana relative to 2000. But relative to the nation as a whole in 2004, youth in Indiana were less electorally engaged.

Table 3 – Indiana Voter Turnout Rates Among Young Citizens ages 18 to 29, 2004 and 2000

Voter Turnout Rate Among:	2004	2000
National Youth Rate	49 percent	40 percent
IN Youth Rate	41 percent	35 percent
IN Registered Voter	78 percent	72 percent
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>⁵		
White non-Hispanic	44 percent	37 percent
Black non-Hispanic	***	***
Hispanics	***	***
Asian non-Hispanic	***	***
Native American non-Hispanic	***	***
<i>Gender</i>		
Women	42 percent	38 percent
Men	40 percent	33 percent
<i>Educational Attainment</i>		
Less than High School	22 percent	***
High School	32 percent	26 percent
Some College	51 percent	38 percent
BA or more	***	***
<i>College Experience</i>		
No experience	29 percent	25 percent
At least some experience	54 percent	47 percent
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single Men	37 percent	34 percent
Single Women	38 percent	39 percent
Married Men	***	***
Married Women	53 percent	***

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the 2004 and 2000 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey. '***' indicates a sample size is too small to produce a reliable estimate.

Notes

¹ We thank Mark Hugo Lopez for his 2006 fact sheet series on which this fact sheet is based. We also thank Peter Levine, Abby Kiesa, and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet.

² The youth turnout rate present in Table 1 is the *overall* turnout rate for the state. Because no Republican exit polls were conducted in IN, the numerator for overall turnout rate includes **only** young voters who participated in the Democratic primary. The denominator includes ALL eligible young voters in the states of Indiana (Democrats, Republicans and Independents). Thus the turnout rate does not reflect the full participation of young people in the state's primaries.

³ For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.

⁴ For state-by-state comparisons of voter turnout rates, see the CIRCLE fact sheet "Youth Voter Turnout in the States during the 2004 Presidential and the 2002 Midterm Elections."

⁵ We have defined racial/ethnic groups in the CPS November Supplements by defining anyone with Hispanic background as Latino; individuals who cite a single non-Hispanic race or ethnicity are identified as non-Hispanic white, African American, Asian American or Native American.